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HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HOUSING
Friday, March 22, 2019 — 10:00 a.m. — Room 312

UluPono Initiative Supports HR 74, Requesting the Director of the Office of Planning to Establish Within the Office of Planning an Agricultural Housing Task Force

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, Chair Brower, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Murray Clay, and I am Managing Partner of UluPono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better manage waste and fresh water resources. UluPono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

UluPono supports HR 74, which establishes an agricultural housing task force within the Office of Planning, because it aligns with our goal of more locally produced food.

A lack of on-site housing for agricultural workers has helped to exacerbate Hawai'i's agricultural workforce shortage. Without a housing benefit, jobs in the agricultural field are often not as competitive compared to other sectors of the economy. Plus, being on-site will give farmers more time for operations, the ability to monitor growing challenges on the farm, and have a stronger presence to reduce agricultural theft.

We believe this task force is a good first step toward finding a solution to the complex issue of agricultural workforce housing.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become increasingly complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate these committees' efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that through collaboration, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



House Committees on Agriculture and Housing
Hawai'i Center for Food Safety strongly supports: HCR 76 and HR 74

Dear Chair Creagan, Chair Brower, Vice Chair DeCoite, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and members of the committees,

My name is Autumn Ness and I am the Co-Director of the Hawai'i Center for Food Safety. CFS is a nationwide public interest, sustainable agriculture nonprofit organization whose mission centers on supporting the increase of sustainable local food production, and increasing public transparency in food production. We have over 1 million farmer and consumer members across the country, including nearing 10,000 in Hawai'i.

I am writing in support of HCR 76 and HR 74, as I recognize them as an important step in providing tangible support for our farmers who are advancing the State of Hawai'i local food production goals, while also providing housing solutions.

HCFS specifically strongly supports the language about giving special consideration to modular housing as a solution. I strongly believe that modular homes are not just a small part of the solution, but should be the focus of this task force, for a few reasons.

1. It's more economically realistic for a farm to build 1-4 modular homes for \$20-60,000 each than 1 'ohana unit for \$350,000.
2. Modular homes are less attractive to luxury, gentleman estate-type investors. If small, modular homes are the only type of structure allowed on ag. land as farmworker dwellings, developers are less likely to want to turn that land into a luxury investment property.
3. When and if that farm/ag. land changes ownership, the modular homes can be easily moved off property if needed, and there is no permanent loss of that ag land.

However, it is my understanding that, existing building codes and zoning regulations do not always support the building of such modular structures. I am particularly hopeful that this problem can be addressed with language that specifies that the intent of the task force is to create a separate legal designation, as it relates to zoning, for homes with a permanent foundation and modular homes without a permanent foundation.



HCFS also supports the proposed make-up of the task force, and I would be happy to answer any questions as to why each proposed representative is an important part of the task force's success.

Mahalo nui loa for your support of HCR 76 and HR 74.

Autumn Ness, Co-Director
Hawai'i Center for Food Safety

LATE

HR-74

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 7:04:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donovan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: